

**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
MARCH 23, 2011 MINUTES**

The Human Relations Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular Human Relations Advisory Board Meeting February 23, 2011, 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

James May, Chair
Rory Gilbert, Vice Chair
Terry Benelli
Ana Cadillo
Hong Chartrand
Stacey Dillon
Denise Heap
Frank Johnson
Wayne Manske
Lela Hinds-Peterson
Orchidia Peterson

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Mary Berumen
Lisa Karpowicz
Karen Stegenga

GUESTS

Councilmember Kavanaugh

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Mr. May welcomed the board, presenters and citizens present.

2. Approval of minutes from the February 23, 2011 board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Manske to approve the February 23, 2011, Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) minutes. Ms. Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Hear a presentation and discussion on the Utah Compact from Mr. Jason Mathis, Vice President, Salt Lake Chamber and Executive Director, Salt Lake City Downtown Alliance and Mr. Ben McAdams, Senior Policy Advisor to Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker and Utah's 2nd District State Senator. *This presentation will be conducted by phone.*

Mr. Mathis gave a brief summary and background of the Utah Compact. He stated that community leaders, religious leaders, and business leaders came together because the community felt as if the state was moving in a direction that did not represent the best interests of the community.

The Utah Compact is not policy specific but speaks more toward the aspirations of the community and the values Utah has as a state, then applied immigration to those values. The Utah Compact is based on two important documents, 1) the November 11, 1620, Mayflower Compact and 2) President Ronald Regan, January 11, 1989 farewell speech. Both documents contained inclusion and welcoming that resonated with the community and its leaders.

On November 11, 2010 the Utah Compact was signed and released to the media. At that time the LDS Church issued a statement of support. The Compact speaks to core values that the community has that transcends party affiliations or socioeconomic status. Nine other states are looking to adopt the compact in its entirety.

The Utah Compact is not just about immigrants but about principles, values, culture, and how we treat one another.

Mr. Ben McAdams explained the impact the Compact has had on legislature. The Utah Compact set the tone for the community. The Compact reaffirmed the value statement of the community that should be guiding legislation.

The Compact became a benchmark for legislative bills by changing the dialogue.

The Utah Compact has set values and state legislation has responded by crafting legislation that follows the principles of the compact.

Mr. May asked to describe the environment within the community regarding the development of the compact. Mr. Mathis stated that the community was split into two extremes when the compact was started and now that the values and principles have been discussed 66% of the community now support a guest worker program. Mr. McAdams stated that the community wanted a solution to immigration, and the compact addresses basic principles and values that do craft a solution to immigration that is good for the economy and good for families.

Mr. May thanked Mr. Mathis and Mr. McAdams for sharing the information regarding how and why the Utah Compact came to being.

4. Public Comment on the Utah Compact.

Mr. May informed all speakers of the 3-minute time limit and to refrain from interrupting. The following citizens spoke to the board to support or oppose the Utah Compact.

Support

Mr. Todd Landfried
Mr. Darrel Johnson
Rev. Paul Whitlock
Mr. Daniel Martinez
Mr. Christopher Bradley
Ms. Barbara McCullough-Jones
Ms. Brenda Rascon
Ms. Julie Jorgeson
Ms. Carolina Castillo Butler
Mr. Philip Austin
Mr. Michael Conway
Ms. Christian Salafia
Mr. Robert Hernandez McDonald Jr.
Ms. Manuela Jenkins
Ms. Magdalena Schwartz
Prof. Manuel de Jesus Hernandez
Mr. Giovanni Conti

Oppose

Mr. Talmage Pearce
Ms. Virginia Archer
Mr. Joe Fletcher
Mr. James Schoen
Ms. Terrie Johnson
Mr. Bill Hall
Ms. Charmaine McCleve
Ms. Joelyne Dennison
Ms. Maxine Steiner
Mr. Randy Hatch
Mr. Steve Ray
Mr. Bryan Berkland
Mr. Sterling Smith
Mr. Thomas Barnhart

Mr. May thanked everyone for their patience.

Ms. Berumen informed the citizens present that all blue cards and all email received will be summarized for the board to review.

5. Review, discuss and provide direction on outstanding information needs and next steps for the Human Relations Advisory Board on the Utah Compact.

Ms. Heap explained that the board noticed that there was an atmosphere of hostility developing within the community, an increase in reported documented and substantiated hate crimes in the City of Mesa. It is the board's purpose to get to the bottom and create an atmosphere that allows for a more cohesive community, a more peaceful harmonious community and one that values every person. The board was handed this topic for discussion by Councilmember Kavanaugh.

Ms. Heap stated the board has not read everything that has been submitted and the board needs review a new study released by the National Institute of Police Leadership about the advocacy of immigration.

Ms. Heap made a motion that the Utah Compact is sent back to the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team to review the compiled data and the board is prepared to discuss this topic at the HRAB meeting on April 27, 2011. Ms. Lela Hinds-Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gilbert asked that the information presented by citizens be identified and more information is gathered about the concerns speakers had regarding the compact. She asked that the Ad Hoc team compile a list of any additional information needed.

Ms. Heap asked that the board or team consult an attorney and include that as an addendum.

6. Hear an update, discuss and provide direction on items presented by the:

a. Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team.

- Give an update on the creation of an anti-harassment, non-discrimination ordinance for the City of Mesa.

Ms. Heap explained that the team has not moved forward on writing an ordinance, the team is gathering information and putting together events.

- Give an update on best practices for community response to hate crimes and assessing Mesa's response.

1) Panel presentation on current status of hate crimes on April 27, 2011

Ms. Heap proposed that the hate crimes panel discussion be moved to the May 25, 2011, HRAB meeting.

Ms. Gilbert asked that the Mesa Police Department presentation continue on the April 27, 2011 HRAB meeting agenda.

2) Healing Communities: A Day-Long Exploration of Perspectives tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2011.

Ms. Gilbert asked that the Healing Communities: A Day-Long Exploration of Perspectives event be postponed until the fall, so that the board can focus on the Utah Compact.

Mr. Manske made a motion to move the Healing Communities: A Day-Long Exploration of Perspectives date until September/October 2011. Ms. Berumen will have possible dates based on meeting room availability at the next HRAB April 27, meeting.

Ms. Berumen suggested the board take into consideration that there are only two HRAB meetings before the start of summer break; what can the board cover and finish in the next two months.

Ms. Benelli stated that the April HRAB meeting will likely have as many public comments if not more than tonight's meeting; consider the time spent listening to citizens. How much more can the board accomplish if the Utah Compact continues to be the focus of the board, is there room for a hate crimes discussion and give that issue the board's full attention. She asked to board to consider having the hate crimes discussion in the fall when the board can give it its full attention.

Mr. May stated that the board take Ms. Benelli's thoughts in mind as future agendas are written. Ms. Gilbert asked if there is any value based on the tone to have the Mesa Police report on hate crimes as a part of the Utah Compact conversation.

Ms. Benelli stated that it is a piece of the puzzle and the two are connected. Is it possible to have the Police Department hold their presentation before public comment on the Utah Compact.

Ms. Gilbert asked if 15-minutes would be enough for a Mesa Police presentation at the April 27, HRAB meeting. Mr. Manske stated that 15-minutes would not be enough time to fully discuss hate crimes. Ms. Stegenga answered that Commander Stahl will send his troops to speak on hate crimes as well as gang activity; they will speak to the board within any allotted time.

Mr. Manske made a motion to have the next HRAB meeting (April 27, 2011) agenda focus on the Utah Compact and not add to the agenda. Ms. Peterson asked that the Mesa Police Department be available to speak at the next Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team.

Ms. Berumen reminded the board that in terms of public forum, time limits can be set. Typically Council will set a time limit and limit the amount of speakers. The board heard a very wide range of speakers tonight, so the board needs to determine how much time it wants to dedicate to the public again. The board has set a strong agenda in terms of the Strategic Plan and the Utah Compact does encompass a lot of that. The Mesa Police can be added to the HRAB agenda or the Ad Hoc

Education agenda to speak about hate crimes and gang activity. The board will need to determine what body wants to hear the information and report to the other.

Ms. Gilbert stated that following Ms. Peterson's suggestion about starting at the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team. There are only two objectives that the Ad Hoc team is working on: 1) flushing out what else is needed for the Utah Compact conversation and 2) hear from Mesa Police, then decide when and in what way is it appropriate to bring it to the full board.

Ms. Benelli reminded those still in the audience that the Ad Hoc Project Teams are open to the public.

Ms. Chartrand seconded Mr. Manske's motion to have the next HRAB meeting (April 27, 2011) agenda focus on the Utah Compact and not add to the agenda. Ms. Peterson asked that the Mesa Police Department be available to speak at the next Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Diversity Officer's Report:

- a. Hear an update on the Diversity Office, Neighborhood Outreach Office, Housing and Human Services Activities.

Ms. Berumen will forward a flyer to the Alston House Open House on April 15 and 16, 2011.

Ms. Berumen informed the board that there is a Community Clean Up as part of Cesar E. Chavez celebration on Saturday, April 2, 2011.

- b. Community Cinema Series, Mesa Arts Center 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

- Pushing the Elephant March 31, 2011
- Bhutto April 21, 2011
- Welcome to Shelbyville May 19, 2011
- Free Spirit June 16, 2011

8. Items from Citizens Present.*

Mr. May stated any citizen present wishing to address the board concerning any topic besides the Utah Compact may do so now. No items from citizens present.

9. Report on conferences and/or meetings attended.

Ms. Heap gave a brief update on the Police Community Forum held on March 15. She reported that crime is down by 8% on top of the 33% within the City of Mesa. There was also discussion about a hate crimes ordinance proposal/resolution for the City; one of the Commanders during that discussion stated that a hate crimes ordinance is creating a culture within the City that is embracing diversity.

10. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

Ms. Heap asked that the voting of Chair and Vice Chair for the board and the Ad Hoc team be added to the agenda. Ms. Berumen stated that this can be added to the agenda.

Ms. Heap has been working with the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Consortium of Maricopa County and the East Valley LGBTQ's for Change in holding a meeting in the East Valley that includes East Valley LGBTQ community members. She asked the board to endorse both organizations efforts to conduct outreach within the East Valley (particularly within the City of Mesa).

Ms. Berumen clarified what Ms. Heap was asking of the board, she stated that the board chair will need to determine to add this to the April 27, HRAB or the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team meeting to hear more information and provide direction. Ms. Gilbert asked that it be moved to the Ad Hoc team meeting.

Ms. Peterson asked for the date of the next Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team meeting. Ms. Gilbert stated that both Ad Hoc Teams will meet Monday, April 4, 2011 starting at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30p.m. respectively.

Ms. Gilbert stated that the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team will discuss the following at the Monday, April 4th meeting: 1) Proceeding with Utah Compact, 2) Presentation by Mesa Police, and 3) Clarification of LGBTQ support.

Ms. Gilbert announced the Diversity Leadership Alliance monthly meeting is Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at Mesa Community College from 8:00a.m. – 3p.m.

11. Adjourn

Mr. May adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:54 p.m.

***The next regular meeting is on April 27, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.
Lower Level, City Council Chambers.***

Submitted By: 

Mary Bejumen,
Diversity Office Director